

## Carroll, Rhonda

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**From:** Vanessa\_Bryant@ctd.uscourts.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 12:45 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Statement of Support for S.B. No. 348  
**Attachments:** pic08942.gif

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I humbly write in support of the enactment of S.B. No. 348 and request your indulgence of these comments in my absence as I was unaware until today that the matter was being considered.

Connecticut General Statutes Sections 51-247 and 51-247a attest to the General Assembly's historic support for the financial welfare of state residents and the right of state litigants to a fair and impartial jury of their peers. Unfortunately, it is unclear to many jurists, attorneys and employers in our state that the General Assembly intended to assure that all residents who perform their civic duty by serving on a jury be compensated for the specified number of days by their employer. Some believe that only those who serve on juries in state court were intended to be compensated. I see no support for that conclusion in the law which makes no reference to the court in which the juror serves. Nor do I see any public policy distinction between service in state court and service in federal court. In both instances, the financial welfare of the state resident juror is affected. In both instances, litigant resident of our state is benefited by being able to bring their dispute to a court of law rather than resorting to self-help. In both instances, the state litigant receives a jury of their peers, a jury comprised of the broadest possible cross section of our populous, rather than just those wealthier residents who can afford not to be paid for their days of jury service.

It is my firm belief that the General Assembly intended to protect both state resident jurors and state litigants by entitling jurors to compensation regardless of whether they served on a state or federal jury. S.B. No. 348 simply makes clear that legislative intent and puts Connecticut in the class of states in which jurors are compensated for jury service in both state and federal court. I urge passage of S.B. No. 348.

Thank you for considering my comments.